

SHARP News

Volume 1 | Number 4

Article 1

Fall 1992

Volume 1, Number 4

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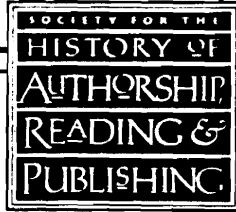
(1992) "Volume 1, Number 4," *SHARP News*: Vol. 1: No. 4.

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SHARP NEWS

Volume 1, Number 4



Autumn 1992

✱ *Progress Report: A Collaborative History of the Book in American Culture*

The American Antiquarian Society has begun work on a four-volume history of the book in American culture from the earliest days of European settlement to our own times. This ambitious project has been influenced by the recently completed *Histoire de l'Édition Française* and similar series in preparation for Germany, Britain, and Italy. Other national book histories, including those for Canada and Australia, are in more preliminary stages of development.

This project aims to synthesize and build on generations of scholarship in bibliography and printing history, as well as relevant work in library and journalism history. It will also incorporate the new perspectives introduced by the sort of cultural history practiced by Lucien Febvre, Henri-Jean Martin, Roger Chartier, Robert Darnton, and David D. Hall.

The collaboration of bibliographers and cultural historians will enable this project to address interdisciplinary questions—for example, how the material form of a piece of printing may shape the reception of a text and embody changing notions of authorship. The series will contribute to the rehistoricizing of literary studies signalled in recent books by Cathy N. Davidson, Lawrence Buell, and Michael Warner. It will further the grounding of intellectual history in the social and material circumstances of production and consumption.

The larger purpose of this collaborative history is to describe the role of the book in the process of democracy, the public sphere, and the transmission of culture. Specifically, all four volumes will focus on four major objectives:

First, they will provide a history of the book trades in the United States, including publishing, printing, papermaking, type and book design, and the func-

tion of the printed book as an economic commodity. The series will trace the gradual differentiation of printer from bookseller and bookseller from publisher. It will show how a decentralized, disconnected trade was gradually transformed into a national and international system that required ever higher levels of capitalization—and sharply so after 1870, when the beginnings of the publishing “conglomerates” of the mid and late twentieth century can be glimpsed.

Second, the series will provide a history of literary cultures, including “serious” literature, the vernacular culture of evangelicalism, the “learned” culture of the universities and the professions, and such “popular” literature as almanacs, dime novels, and romances. This “history of the book” will cover not only printed books, but also periodicals, journalism, and, in some cases, other printed matter.

Third, the series will provide a history of the practice of reading, and, more broadly, of the uses of literacy. One point of departure is the hypothesis of a “reading revolution” that may have occurred in the opening decades of the nineteenth century. Another is the description of “ecologies” of reading that William J. Gilmore-Lehne provides in *Reading Becomes a Necessity of Life*.

Finally, the series will engage with the major themes of American history, among them the growth of democracy, the mobilization of social and religious constituencies, censorship, colonial and post-colonial cultural relations with Europe, the politics of high and popular culture, and the regional geographies of culture and literacy. The process of weaving a whole out of these many parts will be worked out at semiannual meetings of the Editorial Board and at a series of editorial conferences for each of the volumes.

The first volume, covering the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, will address the colonial relationship between the European settlements and the Old World, and the emergence of a pluralistic book

2 trade that differentiated printers from booksellers. It will trace the transition from a "culture of the Word," using print as a vehicle of the sacred, to a culture of republicanism leading up to the American Revolution, as epitomized by Benjamin Franklin. Other topics will include nascent forms of literary and learned culture (including the circulation of manuscripts); literacy, orality, and the history of reading; and efforts by Europeans to introduce literacy to American Indians and blacks. This volume will be primarily concerned with the geographic regions that eventually became the United States, but will also include Canada and the European settlements in the Caribbean.

The second volume will describe the proliferation of printers, publishers and booksellers in the new republic from 1790 to 1840, when an increasingly literate public provided a market for novels, almanacs, newspapers, tracts, and periodicals. In this period the government promoted the dissemination of print through copyright laws, postal policies, and patronage of editors. In response to rising demand, entrepreneurs invested in new technology and transformed the business of publishing. Reformers established libraries, lyceums, and benevolent societies to inform and mobilize new social constituencies through the power of print. This volume will discuss the participation of various groups in print culture, including amateur gentlemen of letters, popular women novelists, black abolitionists, evangelical reformers, and natural scientists.

The third volume will cover the industrial revolution from 1840 to 1880, when the United States made the transition from a regional to a truly national book trade. New York was increasingly the center of this industry, with Philadelphia, Boston, Cincinnati, and later Chicago functioning more as nodes in a national trade network than as independent regional centers. This volume will show how advances in technology and organization made possible the development of national commercial networks (the mails, the telegraph, railroads, express companies) which facilitated the exchange of information, goods, and credit. It will consider whether that national

system of book distribution created a truly national American book culture, and the extent to which different regional, racial, and ethnic groups participated in that culture. By the end of this period, the Chace Act (addressing international copyright) and the formal incorporation of many trade publishers were pointing toward the emergence of the United States as a world power in publishing.

The final volume will focus on the processes of integration and concentration in the book trade in the last century. It will look at the growing interdependence of the book industry and other media, both print and electronic, and at the increasing integration of the American trade with the international book industry. It will explore countervailing trends toward diversified reading and writing communities, market segmentation, and the creation of highly specialized print cultures. And it will trace the rise of a consumer culture, the extension of literacy and education, the transformation of literature by the emergence of literary modernism and mass culture, the history of magazines and newspapers, the electronic media, the expansion of education and the resulting growth of the textbook industry, the growing influence of the professions and their dependence on print culture, and the history of such relevant technology as the computer and the copying machine. The goal, ultimately, will be to treat the book as an object, at once economic, technological, social, and cultural, whose preeminent place at the center of cultural production and preservation has been gradually yet insistently altered during the course of the twentieth century.

Volume 1 will be edited by Hugh Amory, rare books cataloguer at Harvard's Houghton Library, and David D. Hall, professor of American religious history at Harvard Divinity School; Volume 2 by Robert A. Gross, professor of American history at the College of William and Mary, and Mary Kelley, professor of social sciences at Dartmouth College; Volume 3 by Stephen W. Nissenbaum, professor of history at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst, and Michael Winship, associate professor of English at the University of Texas at Austin; Volume 4 by Carl F. Kaestle, professor of education at the University of Wisconsin—Madison, and Janice Radway, professor of English at Duke University. The Editorial Board, chaired by David Hall, also includes Philip F. Gura, professor of English at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill; John B. Hench, director of research and publication at the American Antiquarian Society; and Ellen S.

SHARP News is the quarterly newsletter of the Society for the History of Authorship, Reading and Publishing, Inc. Annual membership in SHARP includes a subscription to *SHARP News*; is \$10 in the United States, £7 in Britain, \$15 elsewhere. Address all correspondence to the Editor, Jonathan Rose, History Dept., Drew University, Madison, NJ 07940, USA.

Dunlap, president of the American Antiquarian Society. There may be as many as one hundred contributors, and publication is expected in the second half of this decade.

• **Two Forthcoming Encyclopedias of Publishing**

Henry Holt and Company has announced plans to publish *The International Encyclopedia of Publishing and the Book Arts*, a one-volume global survey of contemporary publishing and book history. It will cover the economic and cultural impact of books, publishing technology, authorship, book distribution, editing, and reading. A total of 1776 entries will include surveys of publishing in 100 countries, 500 profiles of publishing companies, 400 biographies, 600 historical articles on publishing and the book arts, 36 entries on various categories of books, and 40 long topical articles.

Scheduled for publication in the summer of 1994, the volume is being edited by George Kurian, president of The Encyclopedists: The International Encyclopedia Society. The editorial board includes John F. Baker, editorial director, *Publishers Weekly*; Mark Carroll, editor, *Scholarly Publishing*; John Y. Cole, director, Center for the Book, Library of Congress; John P. Dessauer; Elizabeth A. Geiser, director, University of Denver Publishing Institute; Gordon Graham, editor, *Logos*; John Huenefeld, president, Huenefeld Company; Sandra D. Kirshenbaum, editor, *Fine Print*; Edward W. Knappman, New England Publishing Associates; Herbert R. Lottman, international correspondent, *Publishers Weekly*; Marcus A. McCorison, president, American Antiquarian Society; Cameron S. Moseley, president, Moseley Associates; Richard Minsky, president, Center for Book Arts; Jonathan Rose, president, SHARP; and Bradford Wiley, chairman, John Wiley and Sons.

The editors would like to hear from members of SHARP who are interested in contributing to the encyclopedia. For more information (including rates of remuneration) please write to George Kurian, Editor, *Encyclopedia of Publishing and the Book Arts*, Box 519, Baldwin Place, NY 10505-0519, USA.

Meanwhile, Garland Publishing has begun work on a two-volume *International Encyclopedia of Book Publishing*, scheduled for publication in early 1994. Where the Holt encyclopedia will feature short, sharply focused entries of 80 to 2600 words, the

Garland project will consist of 70 long analytical essays on such issues as copyright, new technologies, changing patterns in readership, scholarly and scientific publishing, textbook publishing, the book trade in the Third World, the changing economics of publishing, and marketing scientific and medical books.

Philip G. Altbach and Edith S. Hoshino are editing these volumes. Altbach teaches at the School of Information and Library Studies, State University of New York at Buffalo; Hoshino is the author of *Women in America* and the editor of several other books. Among the contributors are R. Bruce Rich, Peter B. Kaufman, Beth Luey, John Tebbel, Patricia Glass Schuman, John Dessauer, Czeslaw Jan Gyrz, Irving Louis Horowitz, Mary Curtis, Bill Henderson, Gretchen Whitney, Naomi Silverman, and Nat G. Bodian.

• **Getting Book History into Print**

If we needed more evidence that book history is a growth industry, two new periodicals and two series scholarly of books have recently entered the field. The New York Public Library has just launched *Biblion*, a twice-yearly journal that will focus on the Library's collections and history. An annual subscription costs \$35, or \$28 for Friends of the Library, and may be ordered from the Publications Office, New York Public Library, Fifth Avenue and 42nd Street, New York, NY 10018.

Popular Culture in Libraries is a quarterly devoted to the acquisition, evaluation, organization, preservation, and utilization of popular literature and other cultural materials. The editor, Frank Hoffmann, is at the School of Library Science, Sam Houston State University, Huntsville, TX 77340. An annual subscription (\$18 for individuals, \$24 for institutions) and sample copies may be ordered from the Haworth Press, 10 Alice Street, Binghamton, NY 13904-1580.

Penn State Press has announced a new series on *The History of the Book*. They are seeking book-length manuscripts that employ a mixture of approaches: historical, archival, biographical, critical, sociological, and economic. Projected topics include the profession of authorship, readership and the distribution of literature, the composition of individual literary works or of an author's entire oeuvre, author-publisher relations, Anglo-American publish-

4 ing history, and copyright. Send inquiries to Prof. James L.W. West III, Institute for the Arts and Humanistic Studies, Ihseng Cottage, Pennsylvania State University, University Park, PA 16802.

Libri Pertinentes is a new occasional series aiming to present, at affordable prices, records of specialist and general libraries in the period 1500 to 1700. Wherever feasible the full data will in due course be entered on the database of *Private Libraries* in Renaissance England. The premiere publication—*Late Sixteenth-Century Lists of Law Books at Merton College* by Alain Wijffels—appeared last March. Forthcoming volumes will include *Reading in Exile: The Books of Henry Joliffe (d. 1573)*, *Thomas Harding (d. 1572)* and *John Ramage (d. 1568)* by Christian Coppens, *The 1536 Library Catalogue of the University of Wittenberg* by Sachiko Kusakawa, and *The Law Books of William Mowse at Trinity Hall, Cambridge* by Alain Wijffels. Inquiries, orders, and offers of manuscripts should be sent to the General Editor, Dr. E.S. Leedham-Green, Little Kersland, Gazaley Road, Cambridge CB2 2HB, England.

Conferences

The Research Society for Victorian Periodicals will meet at the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor 8-10 October 1993. Papers and panels on all aspects of Victorian periodicals and the Victorian press are invited. Send proposals by 15 March 1993 to Judith Knelman, Graduate School of Journalism, University of Western Ontario, London, Ont. N6A 5B7 Canada.

The International Conference of the History of Science will meet in Zaragossa, Spain 21-29 August 1993. The conference topic will be "Terra Incognita Recognita: Printing and the Materiality of Scientific Communication since 1450." For information contact Michael Cahn, 77 Garden Walk, Cambridge CB2 3EW, England, telephone 223-66680.

Public Lectures

"Lingua Franca" is the topic of a talk to be delivered by George Steiner at the British Museum, 7

January 1993, at 6 p.m. Professor of English Literature at the University of Geneva and a Fellow of Churchill College, Cambridge, Dr. Steiner will address the role of English as an international language. Free tickets are available from the Centre for the Book at the British Library, telephone 071-323-7608.

James Laughlin, who founded the publishing house New Directions in 1936, will be interviewed by Eliot Weinberger at the New York Public Library, 26 January 1993, at 6 p.m. Tickets are \$6.00 and may be ordered from the Public Education Program, Room M-6, New York Public Library, Fifth Avenue and 42nd Street, New York, NY 10018.



Recent Publications

General

John G. Gager, *Curse Tablets and Binding Spells from the Ancient World* (Oxford: Oxford Univ. Press, 1992).

Irving I. Leonard, *Books of the Brave: Being an Account of the Books and Men of the Spanish Conquest and Settlement of the Sixteenth-Century New World* (Berkeley: Univ. of California Press, 1992).

Robert L. Montgomery, *Terms of Response: Language and the Audience in Seventeenth- and Eighteenth-Century Theory* (University Park: Penn State Press, 1992).

D. Perkins, *Is Literary History Possible?* (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins Univ. Press, 1992).

David Saunders, *Authorship and Copyright* (London: Routledge, 1992).

René Wellek, *A History of Modern Criticism: 1750-1950, vol. 7: German, Russian and East European Criticism, 1900-1950* (New Haven: Yale Univ. Press, 1991).

Australia

Australian Cultural History no. 11 (1992) is devoted to "Books, Readers, Reading."

Martyn Lyons and Lucy Taska, *Australian Readers Remember: An Oral History of Reading 1890-1930* (Oxford: Oxford Univ. Press, 1992).

Britain

Richard Aldington, *An Autobiography in Letters*, ed. Norman T. Gates (University Park: Penn State Press, 1992).

William Baker, *The Early History of the London Library* (Lewiston, NY: Edwin Mellen, 1992).

Dennis Barbara, *Charlotte Yonge (1823-1901), Novelist of the Oxford Movement* (Lewiston, NY: Edwin Mellen, 1992).

Michael Black, *A Short History of Cambridge University Press* (Cambridge: Cambridge Univ. Press, 1992).

John Carey, *The Intellectuals and the Masses: Pride and Prejudice among the Literary Intelligentsia, 1880-1939* (London: Faber and Faber, 1992).

Franklin E. Court, *Institutionalizing English Literature: The Culture and Politics of Literary Study, 1750-1900* (Stanford: Stanford Univ. Press, 1992).

Ann Cvetkovich, *Mixed Feelings: Feminism, Mass Culture, and Victorian Sensationalism* (New Brunswick: Rutgers Univ. Press, 1992).

John Dixon, *A Schooling in 'English': Critical Episodes in the Struggle to Shape Literary and Cultural Studies* (Milton Keynes: Open Univ. Press, 1991).

R.J. Fehrenbach and Elisabeth Leedham-Green, eds., *Private Libraries in Renaissance England*, vol. 1 (Reading: Adam Matthew, 1992).

Antonia Fraser, ed., *The Pleasure of Reading* (London: W.H. Smith, 1992).

Janet Fyfe, *Books Behind Bars: The Role of Books, Reading, and Libraries in British Prison Reform, 1701-1911* (Westport, CT: Greenwood Press, 1992).

Thomas Gillian, *A Position to Command Respect: Women and the Eleventh Britannica* (Metuchen, NJ: Scarecrow Press, 1992).

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Garrett Godfrey's *Accounts, c. 1527-1533* [record of book sales to named customers] (Cambridge: Cambridge Bibliographical Society, 1992).

Joseph McAleer, *Popular Reading and Publishing in Britain 1914-1950* (Oxford: Clarendon, 1992).

David McKitterick, *A History of Cambridge University Press, Volume 1: Printing and the Book Trade in Cambridge, 1534-1698* (Cambridge: Cambridge Univ. Press, 1992).

Robert L. Patten, *George Cruikshank's Life, Times, and Art: Volume 1, 1792-1835* (New Brunswick: Rutgers Univ. Press, 1992).

Lyn Pickett, *The Improper Feminine: The Women's Sensation Novel and the New Woman Writing* (London: Routledge, 1992).

Alan Reddick, *The Making of Johnson's Dictionary, 1746-1773* (Cambridge: Cambridge Univ. Press, 1991).

Ian Small, *Conditions for Criticism: Authority, Knowledge and Literature in the Late Nineteenth Century* (Oxford: Clarendon, 1991).

Peter Thomson, *Shakespeare's Professional Career* (Cambridge: Cambridge Univ. Press, 1992).

Anthea Trodd, *A Reader's Guide to Edwardian Literature* (Calgary: Univ. of Calgary Press, 1992).

Benjamin Watson, *English Schoolboy Stories: An Annotated Bibliography of Hardcover Fiction* (Metuchen, NJ: Scarecrow Press, 1992).

Teresa Webber, *Scribes and Scholars at Salisbury Cathedral c. 1075-c. 1125* (Oxford: Clarendon, 1992).

Canada

François Dumont and Frances Fortier, eds., *Littérature québécoise: La recherche en émergence* (Québec: Nuit Blanche, 1991).

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France

James Smith Allen, *In the Public Eye: A History of Reading in Modern France, 1800-1940* (Princeton: Princeton Univ. Press, 1991).

Roger Chartier and Henri-Jean Martin, eds. *Histoire de l'Édition Française: Vol. 4: Le Livre Concurrencé, 1900-1950* (Paris: Fayard, 1992).

Elizabeth Eisenstein, *Grub Street Abroad: Aspects of the French Cosmopolitan Press from the Age of Louis XIV to the French Revolution* (Oxford: Clarendon, 1992).

Dominique Varry, ed., *Histoire des Bibliothèques Françaises de la Révolution et du XIX Siècle, 1789-1914* (Paris: Promodis/Éditions du Cercle de la Librairie, 1992).

Germany

Frederik Ohles, *Germany's Rude Awakening: Censorship in the Land of the Brothers Grimm* (Kent, OH: Kent State Univ. Press, 1992).

Richard Van Dulmen, *The Society of the Enlightenment: The Rise of the Middle Class and Enlightenment Culture in Germany* (New York: St. Martin's, 1992).

Greece

Jesper Svenbro, *Phrasikleia: An Anthropology of Reading in Ancient Greece*, trans. Janet Lloyd (Ithaca: Cornell Univ. Press, 1992).

Netherlands

C. Berkvens-Stevelinck et al., eds., *Le magasin de l'univers: The Dutch Republic as the Centre of the European Book Trade* (Leiden: Brill, 1992).

Russia

Sheila Fitzpatrick, *The Cultural Front: Power and Culture in Revolutionary Russia* (Ithaca: Cornell Univ. Press, 1992).

Richard Stites, *Russian Popular Culture: Entertainment and Society since 1900* (Cambridge: Cambridge Univ. Press, 1992).

United States

Thomas Bender, *Intellect and Public Life: Essays on the Social History of Academic Intellectuals in the United States* (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins Univ. Press, 1992).

Jon Butler, "Thomas Teackle's 333 Books: A Great Library on Virginia's Eastern Shore, 1697," *William and Mary Quarterly*, July 1992.

Edward E. Chielen, ed., *American Literary Magazines: The Twentieth Century* (Westport, CT: Greenwood Press, 1992).

Daniel A. Cohen, *Pillars of Salt, Monuments of Grace: New England Crime Literature and the Origins of American Popular Culture, 1674-1860* (New York: Oxford Univ. Press, 1992).

Janet Duitsman Cornelius, *When I Can Read My Title Clear: Literacy, Slavery, and Religion in the Antebellum South* (Columbia: Univ. of South Carolina Press, 1991).

Richard Fine, *James M. Cain and the American Authors Authority* (Austin: Univ. of Texas Press, 1992).

George Garrett, *My Silk Purse and Yours: The Publishing Scene and American Literary History* (Columbia: Univ. of Missouri Press, 1992).

Carol Sue Humphrey, *This Popular Engine: New England Newspapers during the American Revolution, 1775-1789* (Cranbury, NJ: Univ. of Delaware Press, 1992).

Frankie Hutton, *The Early Black Press in America, 1820s to 1860s* (Westport, CT: Greenwood Press, 1992).

Linda Morris, *Women's Humor in the Age of Gentility: The Life and Work of Frances Marion Wither* (Syracuse: Syracuse Univ. Press, 1992).

Daniel W. Pfaff, *Joseph Pulitzer II and the Post-Dispatch: A Newspaperman's Life* (University Park: Penn State Press, 1991).

Become a member of SHARP, and you will receive *SHARP News* as well as the SHARP Membership Directory, to be published in the summer of 1993. Send a check for \$10 (US) or \$15 (elsewhere) to Jonathan Rose, History Department, Drew University, Madison, NJ 07940, USA. British residents can join by sending a check for £7 to Dr. Simon Eliot, The Open University, 4 Portwall Lane, Bristol BS1 6ND, UK.

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Claudia Roth Pierpont, "A Study in Scarlett" [reception history of *Gone with the Wind*], *New Yorker*, 31 August 1992.

John F. Rathé, *Bibliography of the Typophile Chapbooks, 1935-1992* (New York: Typophiles, 1992).

Donald A. Ritchie, *Press Gallery: Congress and the Washington Correspondents* (Cambridge: Harvard Univ. Press, 1991).

Elliott Shore, Ken Fones-Wolf, and James Danky, eds., *The German-American Radical Press: The Shaping of a Left Political Culture, 1850-1940* (Champaign: Univ. of Illinois Press, 1992).

Vance H. Trimble, *The Astonishing Mr. Scripps: The Turbulent Life of America's Penny Press Lord* (Ames: Iowa State Univ. Press, 1992).

How We Are Doing

Linda Connors' able management of *SHARP News* 3 just goes to show how well this organization runs when I'm not around. I did, however, accomplish one thing during my five-month stay in Britain: I accepted an proposal from Bill Bell and David Finkelstein to bring a SHARP conference to the University of Edinburgh in the summer of 1995. (As yet SHARP has no plans to meet in 1994, but we are still open to invitations.)

That's all very well, you may say, but what about the 1993 meeting? Many SHARP people, preparing to apply for travel funds, have been asking about the projected costs. The registration fee will be \$30, or \$15 for graduate students. Rooms at the nearby Roosevelt Hotel can be had for \$85 a night, single- or double-occupancy. The conference banquet will run \$30 to \$40. For other meals there are, of course, any number of restaurants in midtown Manhattan, but the most accessible and reasonably priced is the CUNY Graduate Center cafeteria. We will probably be able to arrange for discounted air fares those for traveling within the United States, though the savings over the cheapest standard fares may be small. Registration and program information will be mailed out early in 1993.

We had hoped, by next June, to have a membership of 300, and we are already quite close to that goal.

As of 3 September SHARP became SHARP Inc., and we are now applying for tax-exempt status. All contributions made to SHARP after 3 September will be retroactively tax-deductible. We cordially thank all those who have already assisted us.

I will be in Washington at the American Historical Association convention 28-29 December, and I look forward to meeting SHARP people there. The American Antiquarian Society and the American Printing History Association are sponsoring a panel on "Almanacs and Unification of Early American Culture" at the Sheraton Hotel, Marshall Room, at 2:30 p.m. on 28 December. I'll be in the audience, and then from 5:15 to 7:00 p.m. you'll find me at a Drew University reception at the Calvert Room. On 27 and 30 December I will also be at the Modern Language Association meeting in New York. You can contact me there at my home telephone, 212-388-9384. As Lyndon Johnson might have said, I'm the only president you've got, but I can contrive to be in two places at once.

—Jonathan Rose

SHARP maintains SHARP-L, an international electronic bulletin board serving several hundred book historians. To subscribe, address an e-mail message to either `LISTSERV@IUBVM` (Bitnet) or, outside the United States, `LISTSERV@IUBVM.UCS.INDIANA.EDU` (Internet). Leaving the "Subject:" header blank, send the message `SUBSCRIBE SHARP-L`, followed by your first and last names. To post a message, address it to `SHARP-L@IUBVM` (Bitnet) or `SHARP-L@IUBVM.UCS.INDIANA.EDU` (Internet).